

taining the while her hold on the beetle. Since *Belomicrus* several times exceeds her prey in bulk, it follows that a number of beetles are stored in each cell as food for the wasp grub.

This wasp was not observed filling up her burrow after it has been provisioned. Doubtless, however, the legs would be employed here for scraping.

TWO WATER BEETLES THAT LAY THEIR EGGS IN THE FROTHY EGG MASSES OF A FROG OR TREE TOAD¹

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During the wet season of 1934, at Escuintla, Guatemala, the writer on separate occasions gathered portions of masses of white froth in certain of the more or less shaded rain puddles by the roadside. These foamy masses formed a sort of wet float and protective covering for the large number of eggs imbedded in them, the whole being deposited by a certain amphibian, probably a tree toad.

They were sometimes fastened to objects in the puddles but were more common along the banks at the water line or, with receding waters, some little distance above them. When placed in a jar of water these masses usually yielded tadpoles within a day or two; these tadpoles soon sought the bottom remaining quiet there, although sometimes dashing about. In addition to tadpoles, however, portions of four different froth masses gathered on different dates produced a number of larvæ of a dytiscid beetle. These larvæ were about 5 mm. long, exclusive of appendages, at the start and much resembled those of our Hawaiian *Rhantus pacificus*, being similarly protected by dark chitinous plates, and were likewise graceful swimmers, though in no wise equalling the tadpoles in speed. For the most part they hung jaws agape, at the surface, breathing at the tail end of the body. But they quickly attacked the tadpoles, catching them suddenly

¹Two species of Dytiscidæ are here involved. Young larvæ sent to the Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., were referred to the subfamily Colymbetinae, *Rhantus* (Calidus F.), while a large larva with a long tubiform terminal segment was referred to Colymbetinae (near *Ilybius*).

in their sickle-like jaws, soon quieting their violent struggles, and sucking out the juices. They strove to gain the surface with their heavy prey so as to feed at leisure and to take in air at the same time. When one small dytiscid larva encountered another, they separated in a gingerly manner; half afraid, half belligerent. Neither really wanted to start anything. Nevertheless, sooner or later, one consumed the other until at last but a single larva remained. As the larva grows, it sheds its skin, so that eventually it is at least a half inch long.

A portion of one of the tree toad's egg-masses was dissected out and several dytiscid beetle eggs were found in the froth. In this manner the beetle larva is assured an abundance of food that will enable it to complete its transformation in a fair proportion of these often very temporary puddles.

TWO NEW DIKRANEURA FROM THE SOUTHWEST

BY R. H. BEAMER*

Dikraneura mera Beamer, n. sp.

Resembling *D. maculata* Gill. but much smaller and orange markings of vertex and pronotum distinctly different. Length, 2 mm.

Vertex, long, bluntly angled, distinctly wider between eyes than median length. Head narrower than pronotum.

Color white with orange and bright red markings. Vertex with an orange inverted U-shaped spot surrounding apex, often with 3 white spots at base formed by very narrow orange marks. Pronotum with pair of orange, almost equilateral triangles, on disc, apices directed posteriorly. Scutellum with tip yellowish. Elytra spotted with orange and bright red dots. The former larger and fewer in number. Clavus with 3 orange spots in a curve from base to middle, smallest at base, apex with brighter red spot with smaller red dot between it and mesal spot. Corium with fifteen (more or less) small, round, bright red dots; scattered here and there from humeral angle to apex. Apex slightly infuscated.

Genitalia. Male plates broad at base, rapidly narrowed on basal half to less than half basal width, remainder with sides almost parallel, tips rounded. Pygofer with short sharp apical

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